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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT

Communist Youth Activities in
the Russian Zone of Germany

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1. At the sixth meeting of the FDJ Central Committee, it was decided that a 12-month course of indoctrination be instituted; this course is called the "Schuljahr der FDJ" and all FDJ members are required to attend it. The course is offered in four separate classes including an introductory class dealing with the organization of the FDJ, an elementary class designed for orientation of young FDJ members, and two advanced classes dealing with the social structure of the U.S.S.R. and the life histories of Stalin and Wilhelm Pieck. Youths who are not members of the FDJ are also admitted to these courses.
2. Badges for good accomplishment are awarded upon successful completion of the individual classes. Those awarded for completion of the first two classes are of bronze and those awarded after completion of the third and fourth classes are of silver and gold.
3. All classes of this indoctrination course receive instruction in Marxism and Leninism which resembles that of the SED scholastic year which parallels the FDJ course. FDJ members who are also SED members and attend the SED course need not participate in the FDJ course.
4. The FDJ Central Committee issued a directive to the effect that about 40 percent of all youths attending the FDJ course should be assigned to the second class and about 20 percent to each of the other three classes. However, the actual **distribution** has been quite different, with the majority of all youth participating attending the first class and very few the other classes. In Thuringia, for example, about 4700 attended the first class and only 731 the second in February 1951.
5. Attendance at the classes by FDJ members is constantly decreasing. In Mecklenburg, only 60 percent of the members participated in March 1951. Average attendance by non-members was 3 percent. Very few people from the rural districts attend the classes.

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